



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

IN REPLY REFER TO:
CMC-MH
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WHITE LETTER NO. 1-98


From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All General Officers
All Commanding Officers
All Officers in Charge

Subj: TRICARE INSTALLATION COMMANDER'S KIT

1. Health care is a quality of life issue that has enormous impact on our readiness as a force and as a Marine Corps Family. It is imperative that your Marines and their families understand where they can get help and make decisions about what option is best for them under our military health care system known as TRICARE. Enclosed you will find a TRICARE information package that includes briefing slides, brochures and a videotape. These materials are provided to enhance your awareness of what the TRICARE program offers in relation to your Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) and as an educational tool to be used with the support of your MTF commander. Your MTF commander is prepared to assist you in every way. This is a "must" partnership on the road to successful understanding of TRICARE. We must all be advocates and assume a larger role towards ensuring our Marines and their families are fully educated about their medical benefits and that health care issues are promptly resolved at the lowest levels.

2. This is an issue that requires your attention and leadership. You can have a significant impact on how much your Marines understand about TRICARE by ensuring that they are briefed and have access to TRICARE specialists in the MTF who can assist them in navigating through the TRICARE system. Although TRICARE Prime is considered to be the best option for most military families, it is important Marines and family members carefully consider the costs and benefits before they make their choice. Many of the problems experienced in TRICARE are a direct result of insufficient information about how TRICARE works.

3. Many of you have experience with TRICARE. Others are being introduced to the concepts of this new managed care program. The TRICARE program is designed to continuously adapt and respond to future medical needs of our Marine Corps community. As the remaining regions come on line, it is our responsibility to ensure that all Marines are made aware of these changes.


C. C. KRULAK